

October 22, 1957

Dear Prof. Haldane:

My wife and I were most pleased to receive your letter of the 14th, just received: to confirm your safe establishment in Calcutta, to verify our preliminary arrangements, and for the delightful spirit of the suggested ways we might spend our time in Calcutta.

In the face of that, I am sorry to have to mention that we have to abbreviate our stay in India even more, in order to meet conflicting requirements. According to our present itinerary, which I hope is now fairly definite, we will arrive as previously scheduled: from Perth to Calcutta on Qantas 533, published as Thursday, Nov. 7, 3:30 PM. (This flight does not touch down at Rangoon, but I will see if I can locate those 'Burma Cheroots' at Singapore, Bangkok, or in flight.)

As we will have to leave Bombay on ~~Thursday~~ Wednesday, Nov. 13, we have booked to fly from Calcutta to Bombay on the intervening Sunday (Flight IAC 166; 9900-1440). This is possibly alterable, as we have not yet had confirmation from Bombay. This means one day less in Calcutta than our previous plan.

Thank you very much for your offer of hospitality, which we are pleased to accept. We're no alcoholiphiles-- if you suggest we should import some on your account, please let us know. But I hope our taste in food will cause you no trouble: both Esther and I found our palates too uneducated even for a curry which our friends in Fiji assured us was only mildly spiced, so our adventurousness in this direction has been inhibited, Esther reacts unkindly to seafood, especially if undercooked.

As to your suggestions, most of them sound quite appealing, but particularly the ones that shouldn't require an advance itinerary. We don't know anyone else in Calcutta-- I'd be most interested to hear just what you and your wife are doing yourselves. The lectures are OK: that is Friday eve. and Sat AM. I hope you can keep lab tours to a minimum, if not zero; why not talk while seeing ~~the~~ what we won't see the same of at home. One day for 2a, 5, and 6 (with not too much of 2a, the jute) sounds capital; another for 3, 4, 7 and 8, possibly spread to Thursday too if we arrive on time and not limp, should not be too strenuous. With the exception of 1 (labs) and 10 (mountains), the whole program is enticing. These two items will keep, as you say, for a later visit. I hope you will be able to explain to your colleagues if we don't seem too eager to visit them chez lab. on our very first days. Have I told you enough? Don't fear to take matters in your own hands, if not.

We'll look for you at the airport-- you will of course take care to confirm actual arrival time with Qantas locally. If anything comes up you can reach us in Perth or Adelaide, as indicated in our last letter.